# California GARDEN

Fortieth Year AUTUMN, 1949 Volume 40, No. 3

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by Alfred Hottes

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# California Garden

Fortieth Year AUTUMN 1949 Volume 40, No. 3

*Roland Hoyt, author of our Garden Bible, "Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions," and former editor of the California Garden, is a top landscape architect, not only of local gardens, but also, of important State and Government projects. The citizens of San Diego can be glad that his is the careful hand that guides the planting of our ambitious Mission Bay Recreational Area. It is a sheer literary pleasure to absorb garden knowledge from one who savors each word so keenly. In this article, Mr. Hoyt literally picks up the scent with his nose to the ground.*

# *Of The Earth—A Part*

ROLAND S. HOYT

This is Memorial Day . . . . I remember. As I bother about in the garden there are thoughts of Woody and Homer R. who died there before me in the Argonne. Today, these others march, three sets strong. One has thinned to a trickle; another, my own, is thinning out, while yet another is prime, strong, still our strength. Each seems an identical phase in this strange progression called history; each a kind of biography of senseless repetition . . . . hate, and yet not quite hate since they still don't know just why they marched. The pity of it all. The young life so loosely spent; now the clawing fear and the submerged unrest that tinges the thinking of a nation. However . . . .

Here are earthy things to play with. There is the sunshine and a pleasant breeze with it's mockingbird singing. Attend and I'll tell you of a round dozen little plants to distract you; for you to see sometime and ultimately to try in your own ground where is "green calm below, blue quietness above", if you look.

It's a little bellflower carpeting the ground, *Campanula cochlearifolia* (*pusilla*), a tiny little plant that tugs at your withinside, a close mat much less than an inch through, of a bright vivid green. The nodding bells, blue or white, stand three to four inches above and appear in early summer. This is of vigorous growth,. practical and easy to grow in the sun along the coast, but with a little shade inland. The mat of a well established plant pushes out rapidly to twelve or fifteen inches across, within the first year. Some rosettes may prove too exuberant and rise up out of the plane desired. Pinch them out to start new plants.

Next comes *Stachys corsica* which for vears I have tried to obtain. Always, until the fall of last year the larger wooly lamb's-ear came in its stead, but now there is a stand of closely packed crinkly leaves a quarter of an inch wide and three-eighths long. The flower is large for such a low plant and so far, has appeared occasionally at any time of the year, flat splashes of color against the green, pure white in the sun, pinkish in the shade or during the winter. Bailey describes this plant as an annual, but here it persists; either that or seed is formed in the close mat to carry on. It has the reputation of going out in wet winters and probably should be allowed the drainage of a light sandy soil.

*Veronica repens* is an old plant in the literature of ground covers, but is little seen in this part of the country. It is very good. Of all the prostrate forms of the speedwell this seems to qualify best for this listing. It makes a neat, orderly but loose mat of low-lying slender stems, normally within the height area of an inch. The foliage is dark and lustrous. The clusters of white to pale blue flowers lie on the foliage mass, each flower to as much as a quarter-inch across, May-June. It does in full sun or with partial shade; has no particular soil preference and should do at the edge of lawn where grass has difficulty.

For a touch of color in late winter, look for *Mazus pumillio.* This is a low creeper that mats close if not grown too lush. A too rich soil or fertilizer or a permanently damp spot will build it up out of the carpeting class into something else that may be beautiful but not suitable. Held back, it forms a very low carpet, trailing well between flagstones or covering a low slope. It will like a little shade or take full sun on a cool exposure and appreciates a heavy or moisture-retentive soil. The large, white-to-purple gaping flowers are held just above the light green foliage in late winter and spring, when the leaves deteriorate somewhat until the new growth surges in the fall.

*Bellium minutum,* a tiny alpine daisy, growing in flat lucent rosettes of long slender leaves, which coalesce quickly to form complete cover. The diminutive daisies from an eighth to a quarter-inch across, come in the summer. They are many, white with a rosy-lavender reverse and tip, slender stems two to three inches high. This is very close to Bellis, the English Daisy, wanting essentially the same conditions, the sun and reasonable moisture, suitable for any good garden soil.

Imagine a Kenilworth-ivy in miniature. Place the image on the ground with the quarter-inch roundish leaves overlapping to completely cover and you have

*Cymbalaria aequitriloba,* the gem of this group of carpeters. Be patient until warm weather and see the typical purple pencil-point flowers rising an inch above or bedding on the herbage like wee chitbirds with raised wings, poised to fly away. And this is no figure of speech since the plant is easily lost in too much sun or dryness or by failure in some formulary rite or communion. It is without question fragile, but with a certain tenacity since it was lost in my garden over the war, appearing again in a sort of resurrection. It has been forgotten how this plant came to me and I have never seen it in a grower's list. It needs further study and observation. Set it next a flagstone to be safe.

The little "Whitecup" is of the *nierembergias* which are well known to gardeners as subshrubs in glorious and carrying shades of blue-purple. This, however, is not as generally known as it should be, for it is quite serviceable and wholly practical. It covers the ground in the sun as a turf of an inch and a half, spoon shaped leaves, with raised fuzzy white flowers in the summer. I have had it growing out into turf where it was mowed along with the grass without harm other than loss of bloom. This is *N. rivularis.* It must have uniform moisture. Watch for slugs and control, for they can clean up a patch in record time. It will not flower in the shade.

*Potentilla cinerea,* one of the cinquefoils, may be grown here with considerable satisfaction. It may trail too much for carpeting, especially in sandy ground or if there is much slope, or may tuft three to four inches. In my heavy ground and between flagging, with no fertilizing and scant watering, it has spread slowly and flat, less than an inch in height. It occupies the ground thoroughly and grows dense, with the yellow strawberry flowers resting on the light green mass. Give it all the sun you can as it fails to flower in proportion to the shade forced upon it. This is choice and unusual, this far south. I believe better drainage under conditions as noted, would much improve its performance, since the leaves tend to yellow out when inactive.

*Mentha requieni,* Corsican mint, minute throughout, in all its parts. The pale green herbage is fragile and easily lost in dryness or too much sun. The flowers are so small that they may be overlooked as only a peppering of purple dots in summer. This is better used in a narrow crevice, in flagging or broken cement walk, where the moisture is sure, and where the crushed leaves may release the characteristic peppermint odor into the atmosphere of the garden. Elsewhere it will appear as a green film on the ground, advancing and retreating with the height of the sun like *Helxine,* the angel's tears, for which it may be mistaken. It's difficult time is winter, and I suspect the alkaline salts in our water does it no good.

*Cotula squalida* is such an unusual plant for this purpose, that experienced gardeners should study it under varied conditions to locate the factors of control. It's effect may be compared to that of a thick planting of ferns, but the mat is only an inch high. I can grow this luxuriantly in a flat in soil that is loose with leafmould, but lose it when set out between stones or in the open. It doubtless requires shade, but not too dense, and moisture. The tough running stems ramble about just beneath the surface of the soil, sending roots deeply at each node; while the matchless furry mass of the foliage rises above. There has been no flowering and next spring it isn't there . . . . still trying. If you will . . . . send to Carl Starker, Jennings Lodge, Oregon. His sods are generously cut so that you may break them up for a variety of locations. This is a New Zealander and like so many of the garden plants from those islands, are simply difficult to grow until we find the reason why they don't like us.

## Curing Tuberous Begonias

As tuberous begonias, in pots, begin to have yellow leaves, taper off on the water. Eventually the stalks will break off clean. If in the ground, take them up with a clump of earth before this and set in flats to ripen.

If you have success in keeping the tubers after washing and drying, continue to do so. In this vicinity, we are finding it best to leave them in the pots which are turned over on their sides. Store where you can sprinkle the pots now and then during dry spells to keep the tubers firm. They are less apt to freeze, and start earlier this way.

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The Thymes include many good subjects for the dry side of gardening in Southern California. Two fall within the scope of this discussion. Both are variety forms of the species—*serpyllum,* mother of thyme. *T. s. albus* gives us a virdian green mat, a couple of inches through, with a sheen in the sun that is all it's own. The white flowers are born closely and more or less uniformly, summer. Annie Hall is a horticultural variety of *T. s. coccineus* and seems to be a little more dependable here than the other red flowering varieties. It forms a delightfully irregular mat with the red flowers pointing up some areas more heavily than others. They grow in any soil in the sun and should not be corrupted with too much attention in the way we spoil so many good plants.

*Crassula impressa* is a little succulent with a great deal to offer in the way of a close cover; an old plant in use, but always hard to find. If you can find but one shred of a mat, it will look like a little aloe . . . . plant it out in the sun and watch it spread out into a delightful cover, reddish in the winter as to foliage, completely covered in summer with a mantle of bright crimson flowers.

*Those of us who are too busy root-grubbing to lift our eyes upward, need Mrs. Lippitt's free spirit to catch the beauty and poetry of the Garden World. Her book, "I Married a New Englander," has the same delightful charm as this article.*

# Leaves From The Observer's Notebook

MARION ALMY LIPPITT

*Wretch, are you not content with what you see daily? Have you anything better or greater to see than the Sun, the Moon, the Stars, the whole Earth, the Sea?*
(EPICTETUS.)

March

Come listen to the wind:

What a gay life the wind leads! It rustles through the eucalyptus trees, swishes in the pines, and romps through the pittosporum bush like water running over stones. Sometimes it shuffles along in carpet slippers. Sometimes it tiptoes in silver dancing shoes.

The wind can be in turn, gentle and joyous, strong and stern, or rude and tempestuous. It is always busy, even when it seems laziest. It refreshes and invigorates. You sniff each separate smell it brings —the vigor of the pine, the lemon of the eucalyptus citriodora, and in the spring the sweetness of the pittosporum's cream colored blossoms. You feel clean inside and out as the wind sweeps through and over you.

When you have stood even for a moment conscious of the wind, you return refreshed to the occupation of living.

April.

The beauties of spring seem unending.

The new green growth on the ends of the pittosporum branches make them look as though some giant hand had carelessly spilled the paint and let it run irregularly down all sides of the bush.

Almost while you watch, the whole bush changes from a dark green to a light green. And with the change come blossoms that fill the air with a fragrance like mild gardenias. The blossoms in turn give way to clusters of pumpkin-colored balls. It is a world of wonder!

May

I've discovered a family of mockers in the pittosporum bush. Again a drama has caught me unawares! I see a handsome mocker with an orange hawthorn berry in his beak. He flashes his black and white wings and tail and the pittosporum bush swallows him up. He repeats the performance again and again,— black and white and a dot of orange,—black and white and a dot of orange,—black and white and a dot of orange. A chorus of ceaseless chatter greets him each time he flies into the bush.

Every day there is so much to enjoy! I like to think it's true, and I believe it is:

"Enjoying life is glorifying God!"

Bushes have such distinct individualities.

Look at the different pittosporum bushes. Those forming a hedge over there by the fence are undoubtedly adolescent, rather unsophisticated teen-agers. The three by the back door have the air of frustrated spinsters, while that big bush beside the pine tree is maternal to the core. A Mother-bush, generous and fine, it has grown strong, resisting the storms and buffetings of its time. The very look of it is comforting and reassuring.

June

More about pittosporums.

My mother-bush pittosporum has begun its second blooming. It has much new green growth and many new blossoms in spite of being covered with clusters of small green balls on their way to becoming pumpkin-colored marbles.

Since the bush riots blossoms in the spring, its spasmodic blooming in winter and summer makes it seem to say, with periodic embarrassment, "Oh, excuse me. Here's something I forgot!"

*Nature is what we know*
*But have no art to say.*
*So impotent our wisdom is*
*To Her simplicity.*
—EMILY DICKINSON

*Perhaps it is natural that Ethel Calloway and her family are the hub of garden interest in La Jolla. Her mother, Eva Kenworthy Gray, for years a contributor to these pages, was so devoted to the culture of begonias that she herself printed the first pamphlet about them in English and made hybrids that are even known abroad. Mrs. Calloway has had a garden column in the "La Jollan."*

## Seasonal Vines

ETHEL H. CALLOWAY

In the United States all kinds of climbing plants with twisting tendrils or adventitious roots, and shrubs with long flexible shoots, come under the general heading of "Vine." It is well to know whether your vine requires plenty of room or is a sparse grower, and space accordingly. Also make sure that its climbing habit is adapted to its location, because some vines can damage a wooden structure. The soil should be well prepared as most vines are strong growers and heavy feeders. Give proper support, when needed. Wire, with loops in it, is good for a "twiner" in the shade, but heavy string is better in the sun, to avoid burning. Pruning shears should be used with discretion and good judgment. The following are suggested for fall and winter color:

*Solanum seaforthianum*, a tender lacy trailing vine, with cut foliage that makes delicate tracery on a wall. Typical potatoe-flowers in large drooping lavendar clusters, are carried right along with the beautiful bright red berries, making it one of the most colorful of all autumn vines.

*(Continued on page 11)*

*Your editor found a warm friendly atmosphere at the top of the Ladder of Fame, when she called on Alfred Hottes, another former editor of our magazine and author of a whole catalogue of garden books. He was in the midst of readying another volume, with his own marvelous illustrations of new plant materials suitable for our own climate. Everyone is on tiptoe for it. When most writers would have been frantic with pressure, he gave me time and sent me forth rejoicing with the promise of a cover drawing and article for each issue of our California Garden. This, the first, is pridefully presented.*

# *Pittosporum*

Alfred C. Hottes

Pit-tos' por-um, not pit-oh-spor' um, as so commonly heard. Name derived from the Greek for *resinous seed*, refers to the sticky substance which adheres to the seeds even after the pods have opened. Family Pittosporaceae, related to Hymenosporum and Sollya.

There are numerous species of Pittosporums, perhaps 70, but only about a dozen are distinct enough to be of common use for landscape planting in California and the milder regions.

*Pittosporum buchanani.* This was sent out by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture as 101290. It comes from New Zealand and is an upright shrub 20 feet tall. "Standardized Plant Names" remarks that this is hardly more than a variety of *P. tenuifolium.* The flowers are dark purple with a white tube. Unlike those of *P. crassifolium,* which has red flowers, the leaves are not grey woolly beneath.

The Karo Pittosporum, *P. crassifolium,* from New Zealand, grows 30 feet tall with crimson or chocolate flowers. The leaves are greyish green, densely tomentose or woolly beneath, the margins slightly curled under.

*Uses and Culture.* This tree stands wind and is, therefore, an excellent windbreak. It is good in sand, stands salt, and is drouth-resistant.

*Pittosporum ralphi* is similar to the above, but flowers are crimson, yellow tipped, and the leaves are broader with thin petioles.

*P. eugenioides,* Tarata (Lemonwood), coming from New Zealand, is an erect shrub when young, but spreads out with age and attains a height of 40 feet. The flowers are yellowish. The leaves have a yellowish cast, readily distinguishing it from *P. undulatum.* Also, the leaves have a lemon-like odor when bruised. It makes a good tree if the lower branches are removed.
*Culture.* This is more commonly seen as a hedge in Central California rather than in Southern California. It wants good drainage.

*P. phillyraeoides,* Willow Pittosporum (Narrowleaf P., Butterbush). This shrub from Australia has weeping branches and on first appearance would seem to be an evergreen Weeping Willow.
*Uses and Culture.* Bread is made from the seed in Australia. These are tree-like shrubs which are excellent near a pool or in a situation that is too narrow for many other shrubs. They are well seen back of lower growing shrubs. The young plants must be staked in order to assume an upright habit. They are very drouth-resistant and seem to thrive on neglect.

*P. rhombifolium,* Diamondleaf P. (Diamondleaf-laurel) (Mignonettewood), comes from Queensland and Australia. It is classed by some persons as among the most beautiful of flowering trees and I would add that it is still more desirable when it produces its great masses of orange fruits. The trees grow 60 feet tall and are erect and symmetrical. The small flowers are white and showy. (See illustration on the front cover.)
*Uses.* This is an excellent street tree and by the California Association of Park Administrators it is considered one of the 65 best parkway trees.
*Culture.* Hoyt says that this likes more water than most other Pittosporums.

*P. tenuifolium (nigricans) (nigrescens) (mayi),* Tawhiwhi (Kohuhu), (Black Mapau). This is a popular New Zealand shrub or tree growing 30 feet tall. Its stems are almost black. The twigs are pungent when broken. The flowers are dark purple, fragrant at night. The leaves are very thin and the margins wavy.
*Uses.* This shrub makes an excellent hedge in a sandy soil because it stands pruning. Laing and Blackwell say that the fragrant gum taken from the seeds is hung around the neck in a sachet in its native haunts of New Zealand.
*Culture.* This is a shrub more commonly seen in Central California than on the Coast. It is pruned frequently for compactness.

*P. tobira,* the Japanese Pittosporum, and one of the shrubs unwisely known as a Mock-orange, altho it is one of the commonest shrubs planted in California and other sub-tropical regions thruout the world. The shrub comes from Japan and China, attaining a height of 10 feet. The white or greenish flower becomes yellow with age. They appear in earliest spring and are fragrant. The leaves are glossy and thick. There is a variety with silvery margined foliage.
*Uses.* This is an excellent hedge shrub or can be used in foundation plantings where it stands heat and salty winds, and is adapted to any culture or situation, for it can be ruthlessly pruned or left to assume its own rather neat habit of compact growth.

*P. undulatum,* Orangeberry P. (Victorian-box, Australian-laurel, Mockorange in Australia, Cheesewood). This plant is grown either as a compact shrub or a tree which will attain a height of 40 to 50 feet. It is widely planted thruout California where it tolerates a tempera-

*(Continued on page 8)*

*Because his cut chrysanthemums were so much admired at the last Fall Show, Lewis Walmsley, of Pacific Beach, long a valued member of our Floral Association, was asked to tell how he sandwiched their growing in between his first enterprise of a flourishing Succulent business and his present interest in Sub-Tropicals. A nice sense of humor butters the bread of his war experience.*

# Experiences With Chrysanthemums

Lewis A. Walmsley

The name Chrysanthemum is derived from Greek words meaning "Golden Flower." Botanically speaking, the genus Chrysanthemum includes a diverse group of herbaceous and sub-shrubby plants belonging to the order Compositae. Very few of the wild species would be recognized by modern gardeners who can identify cultivated forms of some species, as Pyrethrum, Feverfew, Marguerite Shasta Daisy. To the nurseryman, florist, or home gardener, the name Chrysanthemum brings to mind the large standards worn to football games, those buttons and pompons in endless array of form and color so useful in arrangements, and the exotic spiders, spoons, anemones, etc., which glorify the garden especially in the Fall. All of them are the blended product of two species native to China and Japan, *C. indicum* and *C. Morifolium* and are known to the botanist as *C. Hortum.*

Few plants have received so much attention from plant breeders and probably none have responded better to man's handiwork. There are over one hundred books about the garden Chrysanthemum and its magazine literature is probably exceeded in bulk only by the Rose. There you have the high points mainly garnered from L. H. Bailey's Cyclopedia of Horticulture.

I had a smattering of experience with greenhouse and hardy Chrysanthemums in the Middle West and, during the last three years, more than a smattering locally but am not growing any now, which takes some explaining and personal history. My wife and I bought two acres from Miss K. O. Sessions about one-quarter mile above her home in Pacific Beach in 1931 and filled it up with Cacti and Succulents and then added an acre or two at a time until we had eleven acres and fourteen to twenty people working on them by 1940. Then an airplane factory moved into San Diego and zingo, we had no workers. We managed to keep our noses above water and most of our Cacti and Succulent varieties alive and even added to our stock of Ivies and Tropical Foliage Plants.

I am one of those nuts who like to grow everything and don't only because there isn't enough time, space, capital, hands, and help to go around. All I need is a good excuse to go on a plant spree. The first man we hired after the war was a Chicago Chrysanthemum grower, so we plunged into Chrysanthemums. Ill health forced our grower to give up work the second year leaving us with a new baby or several hundred varieties of babies added to our already over-large family of plants, and no nurses or nurserymen. We sold some land and invested in G.I.'s and as soon as one learned enough to be of some help he would decide to go to college and study to be an architect or a doctor.

The outstanding contribution of recent years to Chrysanthemum culture has not been so much the improvement of the flower as in the lengthening of the blooming season. Originally this was October and November. It is now July to February in the east under natural light and everyday in the year under controlled light. We went in heavily for the earlies and lates but found that, under our conditions, many early varieties would bloom in March, April, May, and June. They would even develop buds on small cuttings which made them unsuitable for western planting. It was uphill work to start our local florists buying Chrysanthemums in the Spring.

We are a mile from the ocean and most varieties, including all exhibition and standard types, are subject to foliage rust during the blooming season so close to the ocean. This made the cut flowers unprofitable while the local demand for rooted cuttings was largely for exhibition or standard varieties. The combination of these conditions forced us to stop growing Chrysanthemums. We had gotten together a number of rust resistant varieties suitable for growing close to the Coast and were sorry to have to abandon these. Notwithstanding these difficulties for the commercial grower, the amateur will find Chrysanthemums among the most satisfactory of flowering plants to grow.

Those who are two miles or more from the ocean will have little trouble with rust and those close to the ocean will have to discard the most rust prone varieties and avoid overhead watering as the rust is spread by splashing from leaf to leaf. A serious trouble known as "stunt" causes many plants to be unproductive. The cause of stunt is not fully known. It is more prevalent when plants are subject to rust and it is possible that a cumulative overdose of hormones from the use of rooting powders may be a cause.

Most exhibition varieties and many standard varieties will not produce good bloom unless properly disbudded. Exhibition Chrysanthemums should be grown to a single stem and disbudded to one bud. Standard varieties may be grown two to five stems to a plant, leaving a single bud on each. In most cases the crown bud (central bud) on the stem; in some varieties or, in case of injury to the crown bud, the top terminal or side bud, may be left to develop. It is best

*(Continued on page 9)*

*Epiphyllums by Jo. Selman, Los Angeles, California* *Courtesy, "The Begonian*

*As a grower and authority on Cacti and Succulents Dr. John Poindexter of Carlsbad, is following in the footsteps of his eminent father, Dr. Robert Poindexter, best known for his work with Epiphyllum genus. We hope our readers will be stimulated with a new interest in these plants that respond so readily to our Southern California climate.*

# *The Orchid Cacti*

JOHN POINDEXTER

The Orchid Cacti, with their exotic blooms, have been originated through the hybridization of several genera of wild plants. Hence, it is not logical, strictly speaking, to give them a generic name now in use by one of the parent groups. Nevertheless, that is what was done here in America, where these plants are frequently called "Epiphyllums." The genus *Epiphyllum* is one of the groups most widely used in making the hybrid "Orchid Cacti." In Europe the name Phyllocactus has been applied to the parent plants.

The Orchid Cacti were developed through bigeneric hybridizations and their possible permutations between species of the following genera: *Heliocereus, Nyctocereus, Hylocereus, Selenicereus* and *Nopalxochia.* With the exception of *Nyctocereus* these are all plants of the tropical forests of Central and South America, and this largely determines their treatment in the garden.

The wild species of *Epiphyllum* and of most of the other genera used in the development of the hybrids are accustomed to a temperate to warm, damp atmosphere, with a fairly heavy shading and a rich, but well-drained soil. *Hylocereus, Selenicereus, Nopalxochia* and several of the species of *Epiphyllum* are true epiphytes, and are found clinging to the trees with no roots in the ground at all. They are nourished by deposits of pure humus lodged in the crevices of the bark of the trees on which they are growing.

With these facts in mind, it is not too difficult to determine the kind of soil mixture and other growing conditions well adapted to these plants. Most people use a soil with fifty to seventy-five percent leaf mold or well-rotted manure, or other organic matter. The rest of the soil should be coarse decomposed granite, sand, top soil, charcoal, or the like. Every grower has success with the mixture he uses, which indicates that the

plants are not too exacting in their requirements, and also that the other cultural conditions should be adapted to the soil used. The Orchid Cacti make small root systems for the size of the plants, and it is essential that they be supplied with a rich medium to supply the roots they do have. Some drainage should be added, or some of the plants are liable to rot off at the ground during the winter. Some tested soil formulas follow:

4 parts leaf mold
2 parts German peat moss
3 parts cow or sheep manure
2 parts gravel
2 parts sharp sand
granulated charcoal may be added

Dr. R. W. Poindexter

1 part top soil
1 part leaf mold
1 part coarse builder's sand

Cactus Pete

4 parts well-rotted leaf mold
1 part rotted cow manure

Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens

1 part leaf mold
1 part German peat moss
1 part well-rotted manure
1 part river sand
1 part old crumbly loam

Curt Knebel

A variety of other formulas are available, and it is the opinion of the writer that any of them will work, provided the other care of the plants is satisfactory.

The Phyllocacti should be fertilized during the growing season, except that plants which have bloomed heavily should be rested for six weeks or so after blooming. Monthly applications of a liquid fertilizer until the buds are well set and from July through September would be quite sufficient. Ammonium phosphate is another good fertilizer. In the latter case use one teaspoon per gallon can, sprinkled away from the plant.

There is also considerable difference of opinion regarding the type of container to use for Phyllocacti. The writer prefers cans above everything else, in spite of their appearance, because they hold the moisture in the soil better. However, some people are very successful with pots.

It is also stated that the Phyllocacti should be elevated above the ground for the best results. This does not seem to make a particle of difference, except that snails can reach the plants more easily in the earth.

Here in Southern California the climate, except for the winter minimums, is usually ideal for the Phyllocacti. To prepare the plants for the winter nights they should be gradually hardened off through the latter half of October and November. This is done by gradually cutting down on the frequency of watering and the amount of water until all of the new growth is mature and hard. From this time on the plants will require water only once a week or so unless the weather turns unseasonally warm. If the weather is wet, the plants may require even less water. It is better to lose a little growth that might have occurred during late fall, than to lose the entire plant, or a large portion of it, in an early freeze. The Phyllocacti are hardy to several degrees of frost if they are in shape for it. Some of the varieties will withstand temperatures in the low twenties.

As is the case with most plants, there are a number of pests that attack the Phyllocacti. The chief insect pests are scale, mealy bugs, and aphis. These can all be controlled through the continued use of an oil and nicotine spray, such as Super Destruxol, or the home-made mixture of Volck and Black Leaf 40. Spraying is to be avoided when the plants are in bud, so it is well to keep ants eradicated in the vicinity. This should automatically take care of most of the other pests if the plants are clean to start with. Snails cause a great deal of damage, but can be pretty well kept out with snail bait. At certain times of the year, and with certain varieties more than others, there is a tendency for the stems to become spotted. This seems to be a fungus, and its spread can be held back with the monthly use of bordeaux The badly diseased stems should be removed, as their appearance never improves.

The chief means of propagation of the Phyllocacti is by cuttings. The seeds do not come true to variety, and they take from three to five years to make the first bloom, so that it is not very feasible for the average person to attempt to propagate them from seed. The cuttings may be any part of a stem that has a couple of areoles or "eyes", but the most popular cuttings are those that are made from an entire stem the desired size. The growth should be at least half hard, though this does not matter too much. Before they are planted the cuttings should be laid aside in a cool dry place for a week or so, to allow the cut surface to heal over well. This helps to prevent rot while the cuttings are rooting. They may be planted in sand-peat, sand, vermiculite-sand or even directly into the growing medium. The latter is not recommended except for well-matured cuttings. The plants are very touchy as to overwatering during the rooting period, and should be carried on the dry side until the roots are functioning. Bottom heat has proved successful for the commercial growers who have used it, though it is not at all necessary.

Many people expect too much in too short a time from their Phyllocacti. Remember that one of these plants can be kept in perfect condition for a lifetime, so, if they don't bloom the first year or two, be patient with them. It may be your fault, rather than that of the plant. The quickest way to get blooms from a propagation is to make a very large cutting. Those, fifteen to eighteen inches long, will sometimes bloom the first year after they are made. Such cuttings should be staked from the time they are first planted. The smaller cuttings sold by the commercial growers may take two years to bloom.

(Continued on page 11)

# *Spring Plans*

With October upon us, we are in the midst of one of the best planting months of the year; the weather is warm enough to give everything a good start and we can always hope for rain. Thinking of bulbs, reminded me of Mrs. Roscoe Hazard's wonderful spring displays, so I called at her beautiful new home where even the flaunting tulips will have a hard time vying with her glorious view of San Diego Bay.

Mrs. Hazard is a strong believer in planning ahead. It saves money as well as disappointment. The small price of a package of good seeds gives more plants of better quality and more unusual variety than stock plants, plus the fun of watching them grow.

### Annual Seeds for Spring Color

Our Point Loma expert suggests starting pansy and viola seeds in October. A firm in Oregon sends explicit directions for growing them and they are supposed to bloom in 12 weeks. Snapdragon and stock seed may go in any time now but if you are in a hurry, buy small plants. Give stock excellent drainage, full sun and do not overwater. Watch for aphis and spray early. Mrs. Hazard sets her stock close together so single flowers may be eliminated when they appear. If you have a new garden and want early spring color among the young shrubs, sow calendula, cornflower, godetia, clarkia, larkspur, alyssum and schizanthus for transplants. Birds and slugs love the latter, so be prepared.

Sweetpeas like the cooler weather and will still bloom in February and March, if planted now. Be sure there is plenty of well-rotted fertilizer and bonemeal in the bottom of the trench, with soil over it, and sufficient moisture in the ground to sprout the seed, without further watering. Rows running north and south get more sun.

### Plants for Quick Results

Cinerarias and *Primula malacoides* are indispenable for color in the shade. Buy small plants and keep them growing fast with plenty of water and food in a rich acid soil. Nicotine sprays will catch the aphis and leafminer on the Cinerarias. Bedding Begonias, in many color, and Viola plants are nice in either sun or shade. The latter last much longer than Pansies, and their clear colors lend themselves better to definite schemes. The improved Polyanthus Primroses are hard to find, but worth the trouble. Phlox, either tall or dwarf, Iceland Poppies, Nieurembergias, Pansies, Snapdragons, and Stock like the full sun. Do not plant the last two in the same bed as they require a different moisture.

### Time for Bulbs

Mrs. Hazard starts her ranunculus, claws down, in flats of perlite. This protects the early growth from the birds. When the plants are 3 to 4 inches high, with good roots, she sets them in a light soil in full sun. Plant every two weeks to prolong the season. Anemones provide the rich purple and blue shades among the bulbs. Soak an hour beforehand and plant, points down, about two inches below the soil in sun or partial shade. Do not overwater.

Dutch Iris are splendid for cutting and corsages. The bronzes do not show up as well as the plain colors. Wedgewood is the early blue variety that comes out in time to complement yellow Daffodils. Plant to a depth of three inches. They can be left in the ground Scatter several bulbs of *Leucojum aestivum* 6 inches deep, in the semi-shade of shrubs where they may stay and increase. The little white bells with green tips, usually called Snowflakes, will make a pretty picture in early winter. If you have rock gardens or spaces beside a pool, there are many small bulbs to use.

Narcissus is the family name of all Daffodils. The types are so confusing that they are often listed by the length of their trumpets. The long ones are generally earliest, the medium ones next, and the smaller forms the latest, as well as the most fragrant. Get some of these, the Poeticus and Poetaz varieties, for partial shade, as well as the lovely yellow Jonquils that have rush-like instead of strap foliage. Plant as early as possible, be sure of drainage and remember that the flowers face the light. Get a chart from your dealer showing planting depths.

If you buy tulips in quantity, as Mrs. Hazard does, deep-freeze companies know how to care for them for you. Or, if you only have a few, tuck them into the drawer of your electric ice-box,—not in the freezing unit—for three weeks or so before planting in November. This assures long stems. Darwins are good.

Lilies—There is such a wealth of material to choose from now—must go in as soon as they appear on the market, from November to December. —A.M.C.

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*(Continued from page 4)*

### PITTOSPORUM

ture of 22 degrees. The white flowers are very fragrant at night. The rather large foliage is wavy margined.

*Uses.* This is an excellent specimen shrub, sidewalk tree, or hedge plant, and has been chosen as one of the best 65 parkway trees by the California Association of Park Administrators, for it is amenable to any sort of culture and pruning, as well as being drouth-resistant.

*P. viridiflorum,* Cape P., is a tree-like shrub which resembles *P. tobira.* It comes from South Africa. The flowers are greenish yellow and produced in dense globular clusters but they are much smaller and greener and more densely clustered than in *P. tobira.* The foliage is wider toward the middle, leathery, shining, to 3 inches long, sharp- or blunt-pointed. The fruit is ¼ inch long, old gold, and smooth, not furry.

*Uses.* This is a good narrow street tree.

*References.* Bailey "Hortus", K. O. Sessions, Hoyt, Taylor, Bean, Van Rensselaer, Laing and Blackwell, Menninger, Maiden, Hall.

*Our readers will agree that Ada McLouth, one of our members, is a "find" when they read her understanding appraisals of the new books that come to our shelves. Her willingness to take a "busman's" holiday to review for us when she is with the San Diego Public Library during the day, is much appreciated.*

# NEW BOOKS

ADA MCLOUTH

Humus and the Farmer by Friend Sykes.
*Rodale Press, Emmaus, Penn., 1949.*

The Rodale Press, the source of much valuable printed material on organic farming, has brought out this American edition of an English book which went through three editions in two years in Britain.

Humus and the Farmer is fairly exhaustive, with much quoted comment and controversy, continual repetition of the author's thesis that chemical or artificial fertilizers "may eventually bring about the complete desolution of the world's soil and the extermination of all living matter, including man." The work is organized in such a way as to hold the interest, inform, and impress on the reader that: mineral fertilizers hidden in the earth can be made available by three methods: mechanical, subsoiling two feet down; botanical, using deep-rooting plants; organic, returning the matter to the earth by use of organic fertilizers.

The various processes are described with details of machinery used. Examples of the steps in reclaiming pieces of depleted land are given and results tabulated.

The book has illustrations, tables, an index, some interesting digressions. It is a valuable addition to the growing list of books on the alarming subject of soil depletion and the immediate problem of conservation or dissolution. It is also a practical manual for the farmer and may stimulate the gardener to evaluate his methods of soil culture and turn more to organic methods.

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Give tired lawns a tonic by applying milorganite fertilizer. Water in well and watch for quick results.

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# CHRYSANTHEMUM FESTIVAL

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## Calendar of Events

'Unless otherwise stated, the following meetings will be held in the Floral Association Building, southwest of the Organ, in Balboa Park.)

**OCTOBER**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 1 to 5 p.m.
**Open House**
Exhibition of Cacti and Succulents. Paintings by Mr. Alfred Hottes. Plants by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Walmsley.
(The exhibitors will be present)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18 8 p.m.
**Monthly Meeting of Floral Association**
Illustrated Lecture
"Our Birds and Flowers in the Four Seasons." Laurence M. Huey, Curator of Birds and Mammals, Natural History Museum.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21 7:30 p.m.
**Monthly Meeting of the Organic Gardening Club.**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
**CHRYSANTHEMUM FESTIVAL**
Tea Garden Building, Balboa Park
(South of Zoo Entrance)
Tickets, .42 plus .08—Total, .50

**NOVEMBER**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 1 to 5 p.m.
**Open House**
Demonstration under the Auspices of the Organic Gardening Club.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 8 p.m.
**Monthly Meeting of Floral Association**
Lecture
"Holidays—The Garden and the Home." Marion Macdonald, Rancho Santa Fe.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 7:30 p.m.
**Monthly Meeting of the Organic Gardening Club**

**DECEMBER**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 1 to 5 p.m.
**Open House**
Exhibit and Demonstration of "Shrubs as Novel Christmas Decorations About the Home." Chauncy Jerabek, Horticulturist Nursery Division, Balboa Park.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 7:30 p.m.
**Monthly Meeting of the Organic Gardening Club**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 8 p.m.
**Monthly Meeting of Floral Association**
Lecture: "The Winter Garden." Roland S. Hoyt, Landscape Architect
Festivities

CHRYSANTHEMUMS— *from page 4*
to start at the top and disbud down. If you disbud to the top you may find the crown bud injured and nothing left to develop. Comparatively few amateur growers train and disbud their exhibition and standard varieties so as to get good bloom and those who are not prepared to do this properly would be wiser to select varieties that do not require disbudding.

## FALL COLOR IN THE GARDEN

Autumn is synonymous with Chrysanthemums. Lucky Californians do not need to force their fall favorites with black cloth or choose only the early bloomers. We can gather them all into our gardens—everything from tiny buttons to big footballs, from dripping cascades to limp and lacy spiders—where, from Labor Day to New Year's, it is ours to sense their spicy goodness and to revel in their Bacchanalian colors. With this in mind, go to the Chrysanthemum Festival in the Tea Garden in Balboa Park on October 22 and 23, and to the well-stocked nurseries, with a thick notebook and a fat purse, to garner your harvest of new Chrysanthemums. There is nothing quite as good as selection on the spot!

Drifts of pink or white *Anenome japonica* are happiest silhouetted against a dark shrub in the shade. Arising from thick mats of trifoliate leaves, swaying in the breeze on long slender steams, Windflower is an expressive name for this fall plant. The blossoms are most welcome for flower arrangements at this time. Buy Anemones now, if you have overlooked them. The green foliage is handsome all summer and the bloom continues for a long time. The plants multiply.

White and yellow Marguerites, the low spreading blue one known as Felicia or Agathaea and many bushy types of Michaelmas Daisy, delight the heart now with their cheery color. They bloom again in the spring, after shearing. *Aster frikarti,* with its wide disks of lavendar-blue petals around golden hubs, is a gay charmer for a sunny spot, until December.

Loveliest of all is *Angelonia grandiflora,* bearing long graceful spires of blue flowers right along into winter, coming up again if cut down by frost at 25 degrees. When touched, it gives out the most appetizing aroma of apples. Give good drainage in full or part sun. Does not want acid soil so our local conditions should make it happy. Keep moist in summer.

Near the blue Angelonia, plant Winter Flax, known as *Reinwardtia trigyna.* It takes almost the same culture and the golden trumpet flowers on 2-foot stems make a nice contrast. This Yellow Flax is an evergreen that puts forth its best effort in the coldest season, unless frosted, so it should be given a warm protected spot. Cut back after blooming.

### Shrubs Enliven the Holidays

Berried shrubs make a feast for our eyes from Halloween to the New Year and a Thanksgiving for the birds all the time. If you do not have a *Pyracantha* shrub already, now is the perfect time for its selection, when the size and type of berry is visible. Remember that most of them are large growers, so plan to give them plenty of room to develop naturally. Equally large is our native holly, *Photina arbutifolia* or Toyon and its lovely cousin, *P. serrelata.* The foliage of the latter reddens with the cold weather, to form its chief attraction.

Take a look at the various Cotoneasters in the nurseries. They are all hardy and good, from the miniature prostrate varieties—so hard to find—to the willowy tall ones, but you must have the proper space for them. Take a good look and see why most of us prefer *C. parneyi* to C. *pannosa.* They both love to arch their fruited wands over walls or terraces, in utter abandon, and are most beautiful when allowed to do so. A true garden lover is as miserable as the shrub that is pruned tight to fit a window. It gives the same feeling as a dog on a chain.

*Duranta stenostachya* brings bright yellow berries and trusses of lavendar flowers to the winter scene. Be sure to ask for this variety as its growth is more restrained, the leaves hold better and there are no thorns when you want to pick a fall bouquet. 24 degrees. *Crotalaria agatifolia* is another flaunting type with long leafy boughs set with chartreuse Canarybird flowers that are fine for cutting. It wants a sunny spot. Will stand some frost and revive from the roots if frozen. Adapted to modern arrangements. The large yellow clusters of *Cassia splendida* just match the Thanksgiving pumpkin, and the cut foliage is equally attractive. Full sun; feed and water well. Prune for bloom. 22 degrees.

*Tibouchina (Pleroma) elegans* is fairly well known here but I do wish its name could be settled. Usually it is called Princess Flower, possibly because of its royal purple flowers. The velvety, wine-tinged leaves are very handsome if you can find a sheltered spot, with slightly acid soil, where the royal child can be happy. Give it plenty of light but no direct sun or wind. It will sprout again if frosted. 27 degrees.

Do you want something gay to repeat the color of the Flame Vine? Try that tender beauty with the lovely small green leaves, *Streptosolen jamesoni.* The fine clusters of yellow flowers carry on the trumpet idea *Strelitzia regina,* the Bird of Paradise plant, was discussed at length in our Spring issue. This is just a reminder to buy it now so you may enjoy its unique blooms all winter long.

If you crave a well-behaved slow-growing shrub that has everything, not only for fall and winter, but all the year, get several *Nandina domestica.* The graceful bamboo leaves, highly colored in cold weather, would win a place for it even without the trusses of creamy bloom or the umbels of bead-like red berries that grace it most of the time. Perfect for the holidays and hardy also. It requires moisture and some shade. Commonly called Heavenly Bamboo.

*Correa pulchella,* or Australian Fuchsia shelters a profusion of pink bells with its small rounded grayish leaves. It is a small plant, comparatively new, but not hard to find. 22 degrees. It would combine well with *Erica melanthera rosa* as they both want to be on the dry side in the sun. This heath or heather, as it is wrongly called, insists on an acid soil. Hardy to 15 degrees. —A.M.C.

(Continued from page 3)

## VINES

From the many species that the nurseries used to list as Bignonias, we present two under their correct names. Both are strong growers, climbing by means of tendrils tipped with small disks. They need rich moist soil. Thinning or pruning after flowering will promote bloom and keep them under control.

*Phaedranthus* (*B. cherere*) is excellent for year around bloom, once it is established. It is a high climber, not recommended for tile or shingle roof. Its clusters of orange trumpets, shaded with red, are very showy, while the heavy foliage makes a fine mask for the garage or service yard.

*Pyrostegia ignea* (*B. venusta*), "Flame-vine," bears out its name. Its graceful panicles of slender trumpets give a welcome warmth of color all through the winter. It is beautiful placed where the heavy clusters can festoon themselves over wall, gate, porch or window.

There are many varieties of *Thunbergias*, blooming from late August to Christmas in San Diego. All require plenty of water and food and shelter from the wind. They climb by twining. We especially recommend:

*T. grandiflora*, "Skyflower," a woody twister that bears large terminal flowers of pale blue, with white throat. It has especially handsome wide leaves. It sends up new shoots if cut back by frost. Does not need pruning.

*Holmskioldtia sanguinea*, a vining shrub, for a warm spot in partial shade. It is hardier than the bouganvillea, which it somewhat resembles. The long clusters of brick-orange bracts give good winter color. The shape of the flowers is indicated by the names, "Chinese Hat" and "Parasol Flower." Prune and water well.

*Gelsemium sempervirens*, "Carolina Jasmine," a hardy twining vine, excellent on trellis or dead tree, where it forms a heavy tangle of light green leaves covered all winter with sweet-scented yellow trumpets.

Bouganvilleas might be mentioned here but they bloom so much of the time, and in such a variety of colors that they merit a chapter to themselves, as well as a trip to the nursery for personal selection.

## *A Christmas Picture*

Those who are enthusiastic over color photography will be repaid if they start the setting for a Christmas picture now. In a northern exposure against a dark background, outline a plot with white bedding begonias or *primula malacoides*. Buy as many cyclamen as you can afford, (they cost less in the smaller sizes), and sink them in the bed. They want plenty of moisture and light but no direct sun and like cold weather. Cyclamen really are not house plants. Twist off the dead leaves and repot as they grow. Give plenty of room to expand as they like good ventilation. Feed with an organic liquid fertilizer.

(Continued from page 7)

## THE ORCHID CACTI

that these smaller cuttings often produce a thriftier plant in the end, because the branches are closer to the bottom.

Whatever method is used in starting the plant, once they have begun to produce those huge exotic flowers, the pleasure of the grower will more than compensate for the delay. There are no flowers available that can compare for size, elegance and color, with those of the "Orchid Cacti."

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## *President's Message*

Your editor has asked me to greet the readers of our San Diego Floral Association's publication, which I do, most warmly. With this Autumn number of *California Garden*, we are showing our members and subscribers that, now that we are reestablished in our building in Balboa Park, we are working to develop activities worthy of our long years of splendid influence here, (since 1907) that they may continue to be forces for good in this Greater San Diego.

I quote from our Constitution:

"The objects of this association are to promote knowledge of floriculture, to stimulate the intelligent love of flowers, the beautifying of the house, school and public grounds of San Diego, the holding of flower exhibitions, the exploitation of the *geniality* of this section, from the point of view of the lover of flowers, and all other such matters as may properly pertain to such an association."

The authors, in using the word, "geniality," intended, I am sure, the full meaning of the word as found in Webster's dictionary:—

"Geniality, the quality of being genial:

Genial:

(1) Contributing to, or being concerned in propagation or production.

(2) Sympathetically cheerful and inspiring for happiness; kindly.

(3) Natural, inborn.

(4) Denoting or marked with genius."

A very high objective indeed!

Let us keep it always in mind. It is not an impossibility, as we have most beautiful tools with which to work,—Living Plants!

DOROTHY ABBOTT.

### PELARGONIUM CUTTINGS

Now is the time to start Martha Washington slips. Four inches is ample length for the cuttings. Trim off the lower leaves and bracts, but leave those above the soil. Dip in rooting powder and sink, two eyes deep, in sand and soil. This is one plant that does not want straight sand or vermiculite. Good luck may be had putting them in the ground on the edge of a stone terrace, where the earth is warmed by the sun.

Pelargoniums need judicious pruning at this season to keep them bushy, but do not be too drastic.


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### APOLOGIES

Apologies are offered to Lester Roundtree for referring to her, in our Summer issue, as one of the masculine gender. As a nationally known authority and author of books and articles on our native plants and one of California Garden's favorite contributors, she must have the combined stamina of both sexes to accomplish so much.

One of our members, Mrs. W. A. Maches, answers Michele Miller's article on "How Green Were My Fingers." She says: "My fingers are not green for African violets but I surely can raise pelargoniums! Try, try again. Everyone has a green thumb for something."

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